

Listing of Claims/Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims that follows will replace all prior versions in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a defect or failure of a compressed air load circuit in a vehicle compressed air system, in which pressure in lines to said compressed air load circuit is continuously monitored, said method comprising the steps of:

momentarily shutting off at least one compressed air load circuit; at least one of measuring values and determining gradients of a variable of state in said compressed air system while said at least one compressed air load circuit is momentarily shut off; comparing at least one of said values and gradients with a predefined respective threshold value; and

detecting at least one of a defective and failed one of said at least one compressed air load circuit when one of said values and gradients drops below said predefined respective threshold value at least one of during and after said at least one compressed air load circuit is momentarily shut off; and

permanently shutting off said at least one of a defective and failed one of said at least one compressed air load circuit.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of momentarily shutting off said at least one compressed air load circuit is effected a predefined number of discrete times in succession.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising the steps of tracking said values and gradients while said at least one compressed air

load circuit is pulsed off, and permanently shutting off ones of said at least one compressed air load circuit when one of said values and gradients is below said respective threshold value even after said step of momentarily shutting off said at least one compressed air load circuit is effected a predefined number of discrete times in succession.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of refilling non-defective and non-failed ones of said at least one compressed air load circuit said step of permanently shutting off said at least one of defective and failed compressed air load circuit is effected.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of canceling shutoff of non-defective and non-failed ones of said at least one compressed air load circuit after permanent shutoff of said at least one of a defective and failed one of said at least one compressed air load circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said predefined respective threshold value corresponds to a variable of state to be adjusted in said at least one compressed air load circuit.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for detecting a defect or failure of a compressed air load circuit in a vehicle, comprising a compressed air supply part and a compressed air consumer part, said compressed air supply part including a compressor, said compressed air consumer part including a plurality of compressed air load circuits, electrically actuatable valves for supplying compressed air to said compressed air load circuits, sensors for monitoring pressure in said compressed air load circuits, and an electronic control unit for evaluating electrical signals from said sensors and for controlling said electrically actuatable valves, wherein said electrically actuatable valves associated with said load circuits are

switchable momentarily by said control unit to a shut-off state for detecting at least one of a defect and failure of one of said compressed air load circuits, and wherein said control unit is adapted to compare at least one of measured values and determined gradients of a variable of state obtained during said shut-off state with a predefined respective threshold value to identify at least one of said compressed air circuits having at least one of said values and gradients below said threshold value as at least one of a defective and failed compressed air load circuit, and to permanently turn off said at least one of a defective and failed circuit.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 8, wherein ~~said control unit is adapted to leave an electrically actuatable valve associated with said at least one of defective and failed compressed air load circuit in said shut-off state, and wherein electrically actuatable valves of non-defective and non-failed ones of said compressed air load circuits are switchable to an open normal state.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein ~~said control unit is adapted to effect shutoff phases by briefly pulsing at least one electrically actuatable valve of said compressed air load circuits to shut-off state multiple times in succession.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein ~~said control unit is adapted to determine said at least one of values and gradients during said shutoff phases and, after completion of a predefined number of shutoff phases, to detect ones of said compressed air load circuits having at least one of said values and gradients below said respective threshold value as at least one of defective and failed circuits and to permanently turn off said at least one of defective and failed circuits.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein ~~said~~

control unit is adapted to switch electrically actuatable valves of non-defective and non-failed ones of said compressed air load circuits back to an open de-energized normal state.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 11, wherein said non-defective and non-failed ones of said compressed air load circuits are refilled after said electrically actuatable valves have been switched to an open de-energized normal state.

14. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein said threshold value corresponds to a value of said variable of state to be adjusted in said load circuit.

15. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein said electrically actuatable valves are solenoid valves.